

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hideo Kato et al. Art Unit : Unknown
Serial No. : 10/658,148 Examiner : Unknown
Filed : September 9, 2003 Conf. No. : 5423
Title : CONTROL APPARATUS FOR FUEL CELL STACK

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Responsive to the action mailed July 25, 2006, applicant provisionally elects the invention of Group I, corresponding to claims 1-13. The election is made with traverse.

In this case, the claimed method and apparatus are closely related. The preamble of method claims 14-15 is the same or similar to the apparatus recited in claim 1. Furthermore, dependent apparatus claims 3-4 recite features regarding how the control apparatus is adapted to operate. Therefore, applicant submits that the search and examination of all claims can be made without serious burden. As explained in the manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP § 803):

If the search and examination of all the claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner examine all claims on the merits.

Applicant : Hideo Kato et al.
Serial No. : 10/658,148
Filed : September 9, 2003
Page : 2 of 2

Attorney's Docket No.: 15682-003001 / OSP-14643

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8/25/06

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